

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 03486 191404Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 CPR-02 INR-10 PA-01

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 /042 W

-----125461 191440Z /64 S

R 191326Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8424

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 3486

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJ: VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO ISRAEL

REF: STATE 150558

1. WHEN WE INFORMED SARG JUNE 14 OF VICE PRESIDENT'S
UPCOMING TRIP TO ISRAEL, MFA OFFICIAL APPEARED TO ACCEPT
CEREMONIAL NATURE OF VISIT AND WAS NOT AT ALL PERTURBED
BY IDEA.

2. PRESS PLAY ON VISIT HAS BEEN ALL BUT NONEXISTENT
OTHER THAN TO SAY IT DEMONSTRATES THAT US AND ISRAELI
POSITIONS ON SETTLEMENT ARE IDENTICAL (DAMASCUS 3460).
WE ASSUME PRESS WILL HIGHLIGHT THIS THEME ONCE VISIT GETS
UNDERWAY.

3. IT WOULD BE TOO MUCH TO HOPE THAT SYRIANS WILL LET
OPPORTUNITY PASS TO GET A FEW DIGS IN AT SADAT IN THE
PROCESS OF CRITICIZING TRIP, PARTICULARLY IF THEY ARE
AWARE OF EGYPTIAN UNHAPPINESS THAT VICE PRESIDENT IS NOT
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STOPPING IN EGYPT.

4. NEVERTHELESS, WE SUSPECT SARG IS COMFORTED BY CEREMONIAL
NATURE OF TRIP AND FACT VICE PRESIDENT WILL NOT BE VISITING
EGYPT, THUS EMBARRASING SADAT. FROM SYRIAN PERSPECTIVE, SUCH
A VISIT IS LESS LIKELY TO SIGNAL NEW US MOVE AIMED AT
PROLONGING SADAT INITIATIVE AND DAMAGING SYRIAN INTERESTS.

PELLETREAU

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NNN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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